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FLOOR DEBATE

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cancer. One young man I had gone to school with. His name was Ted Johnson. He was a research chemist for the Veterans Hospital. So it's not easy for me to listen to jesting about those who have died from this terrible disease. I find the comments of people like Senator Baker, Senator Friend and others who talk about banning tobacco to be disingenuous, because they know that's not going to happen. When others want to talk about tobacco being a legal product so why are you going to do this and that, alcohol is a legal product, too. And in my opinion it should not be, but that's the poison people choose. But it's one of the most highly regulated industries in this society. Senator Bourne and others work with the lobbyists for those substances. You're listening on the floor this morning to the lobbyists and their mouthpieces. If somebody had a person in their family with lung cancer or serious emphysema from smoking, those persons would not be joking on the floor about it. I can hear the same people who will jest about the right of the public to be free from carcinogens in the air they breathe almost shed tears when they talk about the need to give millions of dollars of taxpayer money to big corporations to make them come to Nebraska. I watch how people conduct themselves on different issues. Senator Bourne wants to talk about a uniform state policy. He and I have worked to get certain pieces of legislation, by way of amendment, that would apply to Omaha and benefit the citizens of Omaha, without having it apply to everybody in the state. Although, if those programs were beneficial to the citizens of Omaha, they'd be beneficial to all the people in the state. So, for the new senators, don't be misled by Senator Bourne's disingenuousness, and that's what it is. One of the reasons I was asking him about a bill the other day when he made inquiries as to what Omaha's position was when they showed up as testifying neutral on it, and asking would it make a difference to him what Omaha's position was, and he frankly acknowledged it would, and we all know it would. Which means that he's concerned about what's going to affect the city where he and his family live. Other people in Lincoln are concerned about their families. Senator Bourne and the lobbyists he is speaking for want to say that the people in the city of Lincoln, who have a higher level of civility, common decency and respect for others than is found in Omaha, should be brought down to the level of Omaha; that the lowest...